FOUR MONTHS BEFORE DEATH-SWEPT PORT ART

BY RICHARD BARRY, The Only American Correspondent Attached to the Japanese Forces From the Beginning of the Investment.

BOUT the siege of Sevastopol the libraries hold thirty volumes about Plevna twenty; Port Arthur surpasses both. Politically, vaster interests are being decided; dramatically a greater climax is in store. In a military sense, the operations are more extensive.

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On Aug. 19 I ran four miles to see the fall of Port Arthur. Most of this was up a mountain. It took me a month to get my breath—not from the climb, but from the spectacle—an iron chain of forts hung on the brow of a mountain range and spitting fire at hosts of tiny brown figures, swarming up as ants swarm over a pile of mouldy crusts. By night there was a change, searchlights playing pitch and toss in the dark, and star bombs at mumble-ty-peg with the mountains.

Thus it has gone day and night now for five months and a haif. After a while I got down into the action and saw the human impetus, the pallor, the agony and the bravery of it. I saw three grand assaults, seven bombardments, two naval engagements and the sweat and toil of mouster heroism in downright hard digging of dirt and shale, such as laborers for money dream not of.

The Colossal Stand at Port Arthur.

The Colossal Stand at Port Arthur. I did not see the fall of Port Arthur, but I saw something greater-the stand

but I saw something greater—the stand of Port Arthur.

Looking back, it seems a dream; at times ugly like a nightmare, again a celestial bar let through the coating of man's inner life. For I have learned that the tales history records and romance weaves—Thermopylae, Syracuse, Arcola, Troy, Jerusalem—are not the hurni stick carlecuses of a next's dream. mance weaves—Thermopylae, Syracuse, Arcola. Troy, Jerusalem—are not the burnt stick carlecues of a poet's dream, but that these things actually do happen. What is more, that you and I have touched shoulders with an age that has produced men as willing to fight and die as any that ever trod the Yet it was glory too costly for Joy. Recalling that mighty panorama—batteries peppered by shrapnel, but hanging to their work like microbes to disease; the wounded whom no first aid could touch; the dead whom no burial squad came near; the sappers, creeping, digging in, the night, run to earth by shells; the infantrymen in assault, losing comrades, right-hand messmates, never pausing, onward going; the dots of foetid clay livid along the slopes, until a handful out of a host criwls up and flings itself, fanatical with the lust of battle, and worn in the charge so that life can never be the same again in sweetness, into the redoubt paid for a dozen times in blood, and which, even then, is but introduction to agony more terrible, for far beyond, rising tier on tier, series on series, are redoubts and forts, moats and batteries—dwelling on that the soul grows sick to think that Port Arthur must be bought with sacrifice so vast.

The Japanese did not take Port Arthur found that the surface is described by a scription of the men had fallen from shrappel of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking ahead and having reports from reconnoitering parties of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking abead and having reports from reconnoitering parties of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking ahead and having reports from reconnoitering parties of the men had fallen from shrappel of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking ahead and having reports from reconnoitering parties of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking ahead and having reports from reconnoitering parties of the men had fallen from shrappel and shell fire. Looking ahead and having reports

and blown up, but men cannot blow up a mountain range.

There have been two instances in which dynamite has become effective, but these entail vast labor, and the re-Its have proven them hardly worth

Why They Must Use the Bayonet.

Consequently the Japanese have been compelled to return to the ancient and splendid method of warfare, whose weapon is the bayonet. There is but

weapon is the bayonet. There is but one way to take the forts—by assault. There is but one way to reach the forts—by climbing the slopes.

Study the placing of these forts and you will see what their intricacy is. The moment one is in danger the others concentrate fire there. If the Japanese take it, the guns of the whole fortress are turned on the captured redoubt. One thing alone saves the Japanese

from larger casualties, working, as they are, so close to the enemy. This is the lack of Russian ammunition. is the lack of Russian ammunition. Had the enemy plenty, to stay where they are would be unbearable. As it is the Russians send useless naval shells which do not explode on land unless they strike a rock, until the moment of assault comes. Even on assault they wait, as Prescott told his men at the public Hull to wait, until they see the Hill to wait, until they see the whites of the enemies' eyes.

Then the work is not the sport of war, where change of ground is made with each battle. It is murder, for the Russian guns are pointed in grooves, trained for three months against a real, and for seven years against an imag-inary foe. To sight the gun is unnecessary; they merely wait for the Jap to reach the certain spot. He can go but one way; when he gets there the Russian pulls the trigger. Thus, the death lovers find what they are looking for. It is not warfare; it is more Thus, the like the hangman's signal in an execu-

Blood Running Into the Sea.

On Aug. 9, in taking Taigushan and Chokuzan (the Big and Little Orphans) the Russians were driven into their permanent works. Allowing a few days for intrenchment and rest, the plan then was to enter the town of Port Arthur on Aug. 21. Every man in the Japanese army confidently expected this; the empire was sure of it, the world thought it due.

ierce the Russian right center, Arthur on end-that was Nogi's inten-Gleriously it was attempted, no bly it failed. Regiment after regim

plain in front of the forts was piled with dead, the creek ran red to the sea, its bed clogged with corpses six and eight deep, desperate devils lost in the thirsty sand. Through sev-en days and seven nights, without ces-sation, from sun to searchlight and from searchlight to moon, the fight

ompanies were wiped out, batteries demolished; regiments came in over ranks of regiments who had gone be-

fore, all of whose numbers to, dying on the field.

The famous Ninth regiment, the Black Watch of Japan, became immortal on this day. Ordered to cross the plain and take the north battery of the great Cockscomb series of redoubts, it started in. Before it reached the last to death.



IN SIGHT OF THE ENEMY. Hand Transport Turning Taikushan, Left of the Japanese Position, Coming Under Russian Fire.

WOUNDED-THE GARRISON OF A JAPANESE - FIELD HOSPITAL AFTER AN ASSAULT.

and one of court only lord along the pope, must a handful out of a host crivis up and flugs tiself, franking the pope of the pop of the pop of the pop of the pop by besiegers are sometimes undermined and blown up, but men cannot blow up a mountain range.

There have been two instances in There have been two instances in getting into it and holding their line there all the afternoon and evening. Ichinobe retired some time after m night, secure in the feeling that his

work had been successful. Toward 3 o'clock in the morning he was roused by an orderly, who reported that his men had been driven from the P. Fort. He was then half a mile as the crow flies, but nearly one and a half miles by zig-zag line of trenches, affording pro-

Leaping from his couch, he called his staff officers, issued hurried orders to the reserves, and at the head of his immediate followers. mmediate followers ran through the zig-zag trenches. Reaching the fore-most line, now hot under the fire of Russian machine guns, he found his command not demolished, but surprised, outnumbered and being sullenly

Drawing his saber he thrust the ranks aside, passed through, and at the head of his men charged up the slope into the contested redoubt, With his own hand he killed five Russians. When dawn came his brigade occupied the P. Redoubt. His immediate commander, General

Oshima, had an account of the exploit elegraphed to the emperor at Tokio. That afternoon an imperial order e ched the army christening the fort On the map today and in the dispatches, one may read of Ichin-obe fort as a critical position on the

main eastern line of defense. It was still nearly another month, that is, Dec. 18, before that battery against which Takagagi and his heroic regiment lost their lives, namely, the borth battery of the east Keekwan fort, was finally taken.

In the first assault, on Aug. 21, the few men who reached the parapet rese call "stink tots"-that is, balls Chinese cal: "stink pots"—that is, balls of fresh dung. This assault failed wholly. The dead were left to rot where they lay, and the wounded were shot as they lay, the stench of the corpses being used as a weapon of offense against the Japanese, trying to maintain the advantage they had gained at the foot of the slope.

The next time they assaulted, which was on Sept. 19 the Japanese were met with and greenades of gun cotton. It

with hand grenades of gun cotton. It was not a grand assault, but merely a demonstration. It, also, failed.

Frightful Traps of Caponieres. In the third assault, on Oct. 29, half

way up the hill the advance stumbled over a mine, and the entire lower shoulder of the mountain was blown nto the air, taking with it some twen ty-five men, heads awry, legs and arms twisted, trunks shattered.

New volunteers advanced through the crater thus formed, up the glacis of the redoubt, until they reached a trap which they had been unable to distinguish from the valley below, owing to its cunning concealment under the parapet level with an innocent height parapet level with an innocent height that looked precisely similar to every other furze-covered height in the vi-

cinity.
It was a moat. The Japanese did not hesitate to leap in. That leap was

At each corner of the moat, at each turn that it made as it worked its way under the parapet of the redoubt, was a masonry projection, called, by the cunning men who devise such traps, a caponiere. These caponieres rose out of the bed of the moat several feet, and each was large enough to shield three or four men with riftes and machine gun. Thus, under perfect protection and with their foes trapped like woodchucks in a hole, unable to escape, the Russians dealt out whistling steel at the Surprising and overpowering as this was, the Japanese did not failter. On the incompany of the constant of the parapet of the moat several feet, and each was large enough to shield three or four men with rifts and machine gun. Thus, under perfect protection and with their foes trapped like woodchucks in a hole, unable to escape, the Russians dealt out whistling steel at their leisure.

Surprising and overpowering as this was, the Japanese did not failter. On the constant of the constant of the constant of the constant of the moat several feet, and each was large enough to shield three of the whole is a pile of them; hardly any sound of them.

When morning came the sappers sank wearily to rest and the scouts, disheart for constant of the moat several feet, and each was large enough to shield three parties of the whole is a pile of each was large enough to shield three of earth two feet thick. The original intentions was to have on top of all that a third so one tentions was to have on top of all that a third so one of the forts, not the East Keekwan.

All through solid rock, in others through them.

When morning came the sappers sank wearily to rest and the scouts, disheart for constant the span of a caponition of the moat several feet, and covering the wearily to rest and the scouts, disheart for constant the span of a caponition of the many wearily to rest and the scouts, disheart for constant the span of a caponition of the moat several feet, and the scouts disheart for constant the span of them.

When morning came the sappe

Haif way down the moat Oda met a Russian lieutenant and a party, bent on a similar errand. There the two ad it out, not with bullets in the precribed way but bayonet to bayonet, st to fist, and even teeth and claw.

The two lieutenants grappled, neither

aving time to draw sword.

Odo and the Russian, locked in emace, reeled back and forth, falling rising, clawing, first o enon top and then the other, each losing sight and control of his men, all of whom were engaged similar individual combats. The two leaders, grasping for an op-cortunity that each sought, bobbing against the walls of the moat, fighting

n this arena, tight for combat, soon to be a necropolis, reached without knowing it, an embrasure which led to the ear of the fort and into the gorge Tripping over this, not there they were going, lunged headlong down t bove which frowned two Russian batteries and beyond which rose the great red-capped skyline of the Cockscomb.

More than 300 feet, scratched by the stones, smashed by the shale, they slipped and writhed until they struck a tiny plateau half way down the mountain. On this they lodged. In the fall Oda had been able to get his right arm free. He reached over, across his enemy's back, and grasped scabbard, which was tightly lashed to his waist, he sawed and pulled until the slender tapering steel had gashed through the Russian's cleines through

thigh and bone, full to his vertebrae,

and his vitals gushed cut.

Late the following night, after the un had gone Oda crawled into his own party of Russians who had sortied out o relieve the first. Still, the Japanese held their two caponieres at front and the Russians the two in the rear.

Vast Struggles to Gain Inches of Ground.

The Japanese during the two nights gave them their vital hold on the north

holding every inch of ground, that it has been a full month and a half since then before the valient Japanese could take the complete fortification; and when the complete fortification is taken great batteries which form the serie called East Keekwan, and this itself is but a portion of the eastern line of

permanent land defense.

The method of the final taking of this northeast Keekwan battery further illustrates the intricacy and difficulty of the operations. Inside the fort, beyond the parapet, so well protected by its most and canonieres is a shelybeyond the parapet, so well protected by its moat and caponieres, is a shelving earth work, called the catascarp. Crossing this, troops that might be entirely successful up to that point, meet a close and unerring fire from men concealed in traverses formed of time balks and sand bags which lie a few vards beyond

sleuthed by searchlights, and routed by heroes from across the way the work has gone on. Forty feet down the digging went. Forty feet was necessary to get below the level of the galleries and bomb-proofs, then another wenty feet forward to pierce a line work was done and on December 18 a quarter of a ton of dynamite was placed to all scientific maxims the forts the Japanese take are untenable. Dominated by other and superior forts, wise generalishp would seem to dictate that they retire until seem to dictate that the day enter called Banduzan by the Japanese, Panlung by the Chinese and the Eternal Drag Since the a unmer done the same that the day enter of the place was well provisioned. Since the a unmer done the captured for called by the Chinese and the Eternal Drag Since the a unmer done the captured for talled Banduzan by the Chinese and the Eternal Drag Since in two of such mines. The galleries and bomb-proofs of the north battery were blown into the air, followed reluctantly by the demolished bodies of some forty-five Russian troops, forming the late

itions can impose on man.

ditions can impose on man.

Epic of Assaults on the Two Dragons,
Against the great Ehrlung fort,
known to all who have ever seen Port
Arthur, as the Red Sarth Redoubt,
because it sticks out against the sky
line more conspicuously that any
other fortification there, and known to
our language as the Mountain of the
Two Dragons, assaults of the same
number and of equal fierceness have
been conducted.

During the assault of Oct. 29, which
During the assault of Oct. 29, which
was expected to reduce the fortress, in-

money prizes for breaking up any Japanese work.

Thus at night, hounded by shells, sleuthed by searchlights, and routed by heroes from across the way the work in warfare—the few who do the work in warfare—the few who accomplish that for which the thousand die—these few made possible the Japanese will some desperate private at One can easily go across the Shuis valley, over which bullets and die—these few made possible the Japanese will some desperate private at One can easily go across the Shuis valley, over which bullets and die—these few made possible the Japanese will some desperate private at One can easily go across the Shuis valley, over which bullets and die—these few made possible the Japanese will some desperate private at One can easily go across the Shuis valley, over which bullets and the bombardments take place.

There is a divanced post.

The Russians have enough food. In the bombardments take place.

Twice I was in the captured fort called post.

Give him an inch and he keeps If he has done nothing else at Port urthur, he has given the He to the rities of the Japanese at the begin-The numbers of Japanese engaged in such work as this are not and could not possibly be very great. The whole force engaged at any one time against such a single point is but several hundred, and the losses on any day, unless it be a day of grand assault, do not exceed one hundred. Yet the total borne up now for five months under loss amounts into the thousands, while the expenditure of energy and the test of the finest stuff that men are made of are the hardest which physical conhowever severe the losses or however

been conducted.

During the assault of Oct. 29, which During the Assault of Oct. 29, the assault of Oct. 29, the assaulting party went in under heavy fire.

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During the assault of Oct. 29, the assaulting party with the nearly of the Stand of the Northeast of the Stand of the Sta

balks and sand bags which lie a few yards beyond.

Then below these traverses are galleries where the garrison lives; and below the galleries are the bomb
The moat.

The moat.

Then the army sat down and went to work with pick and shovel by night.

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Then the army sat down and went to work with pick and shovel by night.

This was done under the enemy's searchlights and star bombs and withbags were swallowed up. There was in rifle range. In places it was done

Then the army sat down and went to work with pick and shovel by night.

The front of the Eternal Dragon was called the thirty-minute trench, be
(Continued on Page 4.)

a mine shaft.

The lines were all chathematically correct, the planks had been sawed square and the sandbags piled in geometrical patterns. Looking back across these eighteen miles from the Russian side, looking at them as the Russian side, looking at them as the Russian side, looking at them as the Russian side. as a monster worm through the mud of the seashore. Only, instead of mud here was rock, instead of the fisher-men here was Mr. Bombshell, his vihere was rock, instead of the many men here was Mr. Bombshell, his vicious children the shrapnel and his nasty relatives the tiny, deadly bulling to prevent scurvy.

If he is paying five thousand rubbles for the control of the cont

teen metres long.

On the afternoon of Oct. 29, the assaulting party went in under heavy fire with the scaling ladders. The survivors who reached the brink of the moat

Valley.

Deen small. The Japanese are learning that there are some things that ing heroes from the other side, quite as willing to fight and die, but not quite as able to live so desperately as the Japanese, Here we can see the whole philosophy

who reached the brink of the most rested the ladders against one side and dropped them across. The ladders failed to touch the other side, failed to touch the bottom, and disappeared in the most.

Crossing the Shuishing valley in August, entirely without protection, Nogi lost 25,000 men, and did not take the forts.

Of the war. Both sides are equally willing to die, but the Japanese, though they may not be more willing, are more able to live. They can exist on a ball of rice a day in their five-foot-six space of earth, smiling with fatalistic con-

cause so intense was the stain with stench, sun and Russian sharpshooters combined, that even Japanese soldiers could bear only one witch of thirty minutes in eight hours, and sentries were changed that often.

Stoessel as Wonderful as His Forts.

If Port Arthur has been apparently impregnable, so has Stoessel been.

Not a Russian but a Swiss, he combines the prudence, foresight and indomitable will of his ancestry with the century-famed detensive fighting ability of the land of his adoption. He has been four years in Port Arthur, has superintended the building of the forts and knows every inch of the ground. He has made up his mind to die there, and his will alone is enough to hold out to the last. His wife, a sympathetic woman, who spends much time in the hospitals, is with him. He is in the prime of life, 45 years old, and in perfect health, despite the constant rumors that he has been wounded.

stant rumors that he has been wounded.

He is the most rigid disciplinarian in the Russian army, and is heartily disliked by the soldiers on that account. The first orders he issued in Port Arthur after the Japanese warships began to bombard was for every disorderly woman to leave the place, Leave they did, some to Liao Yang, some to Shanghai. No women remain now but the wives of officers, all of whom devote their time in the hospital.

The second order Stoessel issued concerned drink. He made the penalty death for any officer or man found drunk, and imprisonment on bread and water for any who sold or bought liquor beyond the ration. The ration per day for each soldier is a tot of vodka, amounting to about two gills, and to each officer a pint of champagne or a gill of brandy or whisky.

Three privates and one officer have been shot in Port Arthur within the past four months for violating this military order.

Every Lethal Weapon Known on Earth.

Stoessel has availed himself of every weapon of defense on which he could ay hands.

In the assaults on the Kekwan forts

in August, his men resisted with dung balls tossed into the faces of their adballs tossed into the faces of their advancing foes.

Japanese burial parties have not been permitted to inter their own corpses nor the corpses of Russians failen between the lines of the bloody angle. The resulting stench in the broiling summer sun was carried by the wind and the declivity into the Japanese faces and made living next to imbegrable.

of comrades forming some of the in-trenchments, and with other comrades constantly falling about the workers. Yet it showed as much care as the American miner could use in cutting

Chefoo and Snangnal. About the twenty reaches its destination. The rest are picked up by the Japanese navy. But one in twenty makes it worth while and the successful China-

side, looking at them as the Russians do, I could see no evidence that an army had wriggled through the ground Japanese on captured junks. They are about 25 per cent fresh vegetables, being delicacies, apparently for the cers' tables. Over half of the plus

the refugees that there is sufficiency and excellent morale. One who has

small arm ammunition, and if this is true, as it seems likely, the assaults can be repulsed until every defender is killed. It is not probable that the Japanese shell fire has done much real harm, though it has knocked the ships and town about and displaced much earth on the forts.

About one in four hundred of the